(b) if so, the details of all technical Ministries/Departments and their heads with the service/cadre to which they belong;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there have been frequent changes of non-technical heads affecting the performance of departments;

(d) the postings and transfers of the heads of technical departments during the last three years and reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would consider to appoint only technical officers to head technical departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) No Sir. Appointments of Secretaries in all the departments of the Government of India, including the technical Ministries/Departments, is done as per the specific need of that department and suitability of the persons so appointed. For this purpose, where necessary, a Search-cum-Selection Committee is also constituted to identify suitable technical officers.

Objectives and Achievement of NCP

1006. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the aims and objectives for which the National Commission on Population was set up;

(b) what have been its achievements till date; and

(c) by when the National Population Policy is likely to be finalized and announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The aims and objectives of the National Commission on Population are to :

(i) review, monitor and give directions for the implementation of the National Population Policy with a view to meeting the goals set out in the policy.

(ii) promote synergy between demographic, educational, environmental and developmental programmes so as to hasten population stabilization.

(iii) promote inter-sectoral coordination in planning and implementation across government agencies of the Central and State Governments, to involve the civil society and the private sector and to explore the possibilities of international cooperation in support of the goals set out in the Policy.

(iv) facilitate the development of a vigorous people's movement in support of this national effort.

(b) The main achievements of the National Commission on Population are given below :

(i) On the basis of the decisions taken at the first Conference of the Commission and the Strategic Support Group of Secretaries of the concerned Departments, eight Working/Advisory Groups were constituted by the NCP. The report/recommendations of these Groups have been forwarded to the concerned Departments and taken into consideration, to the extent possible, in the sectoral programmes for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(ii) A thorough review of the implementation of the national Family Welfare programme in the high fertility States and at the national level.

(iii) Identification of 133 districts having TFR>3.5 for focused action for population stabilization followed by a conference of DMs of these districts to discuss and decide about various matters relating to population stabilization.

(iv) Selection of social, economic and demographic indicators for monitoring purpose.

(v) Conference of Demographic Research Organisations for integrating the results of research with policy formulation.

(vi) Field visits for evolving grass-root level models for addressing various issues relating to population stabilization. On this basis, area specific field level initiatives will be undertaken with the involvement of PRIs, NGOs, Women Self-Help Groups and Youth Organisations.

(vii) Two Ministerial Conferences were organized for convergence of social sector programmes.

(viii) A Conference of State Population Commissions was organized where a detailed review of the implementation of the State Population Policies were undertaken. This has given an opportunity for sharing the experiences of better performing States *viz. a viz.* States which are witnessing high population growth now.

(c) The National Population Policy was finalized and published by the Government in the year 2000.

Creation of Employment Opportunities

1007. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister in his Independent Day speech assured of creating more employment opportunities;

(b) if so, whether Government have contemplated any specific strategy/scheme to generate more jobs; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Prime Minister announced to the Nation that the Government is committed to create 10 crore employment opportunities over a period of ten years. Planning Commission constituted a Special Group on "Targeting 10 million Employment Opportunities Per Year" under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member (Labour, Employment & Manpower), Planning Commission. The Special Group submitted its report in May 2002, wherein it has identified sectors and sub-sectors in the economy, which could be given more stress to generate additional employment over and above the employment generated from the growth process. The schemes identified include labour intensive sectors like agriculture, watershed development, on farm water management, small and medium industries, information technology, education and health services.